

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1688

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 24, 2006

An act to add and repeal Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care, *and making an appropriation therefor*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1688, as amended, Bowen. Foster care: instruction and education pilot project.

Existing law declares the duty of the state to care for and protect the children that it places into foster care. Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services has various powers and duties relating to ensuring that the needs of foster children are met by local child welfare agencies and foster care providers.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to contract with a specified entity to establish, until January 1, 2011, a foster care parent and child home instruction and education pilot project, as specified in the bill. The bill would set forth the purposes of the pilot project, including the duties of the department and the contracting entity, with respect to the operation of the pilot project and the development of materials and curriculum. The bill would require the department to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot project and submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2011. ~~The~~

This bill would appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund to the department to implement the bill.

This bill would become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and be repealed as of January 1, 2012.

Vote: ~~majority~~^{2/3}. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee:
yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040)
2 is added to Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
3 Code, to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 1.5. FOSTER CARE PARENT AND CHILD HOME
6 INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION
7

8 16040. (a) The State Department of Social Services shall
9 contract with Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool
10 Youngsters, ~~USA California~~ (HIPPY ~~USA~~) *California* to
11 establish a foster care parent and child home instruction and
12 education pilot project in accordance with this chapter.

13 (b) The pilot project shall be conducted in two counties that
14 agree to participate, other than Los Angeles County.

15 (c) The purposes of the pilot project shall be as follows:

16 (1) To empower foster parents as the primary educators of
17 foster children in their home.

18 (2) To ensure the foster parents' involvement in school and
19 community life, so as to maximize the chances of successful
20 early school experiences for children three to five years of age.

21 16042. The pilot project shall use specialized materials,
22 curriculum, and books, designed to strengthen children's
23 cognitive and reading skills, and social and emotional
24 development. The project shall promote, at a minimum, the
25 following objectives:

26 (a) Helping foster parents to recognize their role as their foster
27 children's first and most influential teachers.

28 (b) Strengthening of the community-at-large by empowering
29 foster parents.

30 (c) Preparing foster children for school.

31 (d) Allowing foster parents to bond with their foster children
32 and move toward adoption.

33 16044. HIPPY ~~USA California~~ shall assist the department in
34 developing, producing, and distributing project materials,

1 curriculum, and books, and shall offer other technical assistance
2 to the department as necessary.

3 16046. (a) The pilot project shall terminate on January 1,
4 2011. The department shall prepare a report evaluating the
5 effectiveness of the pilot project and shall submit the report to the
6 appropriate committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2011.

7 (b) This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and
8 as of January 1, 2012, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute is
9 enacted before July 1, 2011, deletes or extends the dates on
10 which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

11 *SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated fifty thousand dollars*
12 *(\$50,000) from the General Fund to the State Department of*
13 *Social Services to implement the foster care parent and child*
14 *home instruction and education pilot project in accordance with*
15 *Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040) of Part 4 of*
16 *Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.*